

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 31, 2018 – BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in special session on Thursday, May 31, 2018 for the purpose of holding a budget workshop. The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Chambers at the County Administration Building located at 101 S. Broad St., Brevard, NC.

Commissioners present were Chairman Larry Chapman, Jason Chappell, Mike Hawkins, Vice-Chairwoman Page Lemel and Kelvin Phillips. Also present were County Manager Jaime Laughter and County Attorney Misti Bass. Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan was absent (due to the flooding), but was participating remotely.

Media: *The Transylvania Time* – Derek McKissock

There were approximately 50 people in the audience.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Larry Chapman presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**WELCOME**

Chairman Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members of the public for participating in their local government. He introduced Commissioners and staff in attendance.

**COMMENTS FROM THE SHERIFF**

Chairman Chapman reported that Sheriff David Mahoney had a prior commitment last week and was unable to attend the Board meeting. He requested a moment to address Commissioners regarding his budget request.

Sheriff David Mahoney stated he has requested a tactical rescue vehicle in his budget for the past two years. He thanked the Board for their willingness to continue the discussion about his request during this budget workshop. He emphasized this vehicle is critical to his department and he would appreciate a successful solution to his request.

**WORKSHOP**

Chairman Chapman turned the meeting over to the County Manager.

**REVIEW OF BUDGET WORKSHOP RULES AND PROTOCOL**

- Manager will serve as the facilitator
- Present prior information on each agenda item and any potential options for funding
- Open for Commissioners' discussion along with questions
- Start discussion with Commissioner who requested item be placed on workshop agenda
- Opportunity for each Commissioner to speak on item
- Once it appears three Commissioners are in agreement or when 15 minutes is reached Manager will call for consensus unless Commissioners express interest in continuing discussion

- Goal by end of meeting is to have a budget to present at the public hearing on June 12
- Be patient, be kind, be courteous and be cordial

#### UPDATES SINCE FORMAL BUDGET PRESENTATION

##### **Changes or Modifications since Presentation**

- Minor corrections based on new information result in a recommended budget of \$51,275,273 with fund balance appropriation at budget of \$508,824 (\$7,000 change due to new information on estimates)
- Draft State budget includes funds specifically for Transylvania County thanks to Representative Henson and Senator Edwards!!! State budget expected to pass in coming days.
  - \$50,000 for Transylvania County government's involvement with the Early Childhood Initiative to prepare programs and community activities to enhance early childhood education; instrumental in getting the ECI ready for partnership with Sesame Street in Communities
  - \$126,000 for Stop the Bleed Kits and training for 250 classrooms in Transylvania County Schools; a pilot program to prevent deaths due to violence in schools
  - \$3.6 million included for WNC Landslide Mapping which has been an interest of the Transylvania Natural Resources Council

##### **Summary of Recommended Budget**

- Revenue projections – revenue growth as a whole is growing at 2.27%
- More reliant on primarily property tax to fund functions of County government and State mandated services

##### **Future Year Planning and Tax Rate**

- Revenue growth 2.27%
- County government services heavily mandated; approximately 86% of budget related to State mandates which are not always funded by State or federal government

##### **Expenditures**

- Most percentage of growth reflected in public safety
- Decrease in economic development because Ecusta Road Project budgeted in FY 18
- Expenditures by natural classification show personnel is largest expenditures, followed by education and operational
- Most growth in personnel; County government is service oriented
- Decrease in economic development and human services; reflective of reduction of Ecusta Road Project from FY 18 and change in how State is funding subsidies

##### **Summary**

- Balanced budget of \$51,268,153 reflecting less than 1% increase total
  - \$1 million Golden Leaf grant was booked as revenue in FY 18; 2 % increase if that is factored into account
  - Increases for capital expenditures to move forward on deferred maintenance (5 year projections developed on facility needs) and a large increase in transfer from general fund for solid waste
- Recommended budget does not include prior tax increase for capital needs as an expenditure line, but projects a surplus at end of year that will allow distributions into those capital reserves
- No tax rate change proposed in the recommended budget
  - 11<sup>th</sup> lowest tax rate in the State for FY 18
  - 30<sup>th</sup>-33<sup>rd</sup> range in population

- Top 3<sup>rd</sup> for population growth this year
- Recommend continued policy development
  - Capital prioritization funding strategies next steps, work with Board of Education on referendum, evaluate expenditure growth vs revenue growth to avoid operational increases in addition to known capital increases on the horizon

### Education Summary

- Operations funding
  - Current Expense funding requested by Board of Education: \$12,323,074, 4.05% increase from FY 18 County appropriation
    - Along with a budget of \$110,000 from Fines and Forfeitures for a total of \$12,433,074 local Current Expense proposal
  - Current Expense recommended: \$12,429,623, 4.9% increase
    - Recommended funding is \$106,000 higher than requested by Board of Education for operational expenses (Board of Education would prefer the excess to remain in operational funds and not apply to capital. Commissioners may elect to leave as is or move to capital prior to budget adoption.)
    - Current Expense allocation FY 18: \$11,842,443
- School Capital requested by Board of Education: \$5.2 million, 193% increase over FY 18
- School Capital County funds: \$1,850,000, 2.78% increase and additional \$221,900 in lottery revenue budgeted (consistent with history of availability)
  - \$713,071 appropriation for furniture and equipment (9200 category)
  - Request totaled for over 5,000 ADM at \$24 per student figure for furniture; this was adjusted to projected ADM by school
  - Allocate by project for renovation projects totaling \$895,129
  - All projects paid in full or as a sum of payments exceeding \$50,000 will need contracts, purchase orders or invoices submitted to draw down funds
  - Projects less than \$50,000 will be given in a lump sum as listed on the recommended capital proposal
  - As allowed by statute and as historically included in Transylvania County Budget Ordinance, no funds can be reallocated at greater than 10% between projects without County Commissioners' approval

### FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUESTS

- Fire department budget requests are due by April 1 of each year and shared with Commissioners by May 3 for review
- In State of North Carolina, local boards of Commissioners set the fire tax rates for fire districts and therefore must determine how much the budget shall be for each department
- Staff identified major items in fire department budgets for Board consideration
- Staff requested direction from the Board on which items to approve to include in the fire department budgets so that a tax rate for each district could be set accordingly

District	County Funding Budget Request	Dollar Change from FY 18 Approved
Sylvan Valley II	\$480,000	\$7,000
Rosman	\$654,125	\$129,221
Little River	\$457,230	\$12,036
Connestee	\$782,258	\$75,046
Cedar Mountain	\$193,100	-\$900
Lake Toxaway	\$1,012,786	\$232,443

Balsam Grove	\$97,277	\$0
North Trans.	\$291,655	\$134,455

### **Brevard Fire/Sylvan Valley II**

- Nominal increases
- Continue to contract with three agencies for coverage in Sylvan Valley II
- Continue to save for future substation

### **Rosman Fire**

- Annual payment on building: \$12,000 increase
- Communications: \$5,000 increase
- Paid staffing: \$100,000 increase for two additional staff

### **Little River Fire**

- Small increases in multiple lines
- Overall small budget increase and small tax rate decrease

### **Connestee Falls Fire**

- Deposits for down payments: \$45,000 (down payment on property for new main station)
- Annual payment on building to begin FY 20

### **Cedar Mountain Fire**

- Removed grant revenue and expenditure previously requested (applying for grant and may request funds from reserve for match if grant approved)

### **Lake Toxaway Fire**

- Annual payment apparatus: \$33,979 increase (early delivery of rescue pumper)
- Breathing apparatus: \$6,825 increase (5 sets on the rescue pumper)
- Capital cash purchase of building: \$65,000 for 3 bay building
- \$30,000 remodel kitchen to commercial kitchen
- Fire suppression equipment: \$70,000 increase for equipment for rescue pumper
- Paid staffing: \$90,000 increase

### **Balsam Grove**

- No funding for firefighters' pension; have not participated due to expense so volunteers will not be eligible for benefits
- The cost to begin the firefighters' pension is minimal; \$10/member/month x 24 members = \$2,880; department already pays membership to the NC Firefighters Association which is required for pension eligibility; small increase to fire tax rate to participate
- The department stated in the meeting that they did not participate due to the cost of pension program. It would cost significantly more to pay the back payments for members of Balsam Grove Fire Department based on years of service so they are eligible at 20 years of service.

### **North Transylvania Fire**

- Increases in budget that have been discussed over last two cycles throughout reflecting needs not funded previously due to tax impact
- Part time upgraded to full time staff person: \$15,000
- Protective gear: \$6,000 increase
- Grant matching for breathing apparatus and fire apparatus: \$68,500

- Security Cameras: \$6,500

#### *Board Discussion*

The Manager called for discussion and direction from the Board on these requests. The Board of Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about individual fire department budgets and funding as a whole. This is a summary of their comments and of action taken:

- Commissioner Hawkins would prefer to receive staff recommendations on fire departments' budgets requests.
- While he was appreciative of staffs' work to gather data and make recommendations, Commissioner Chappell preferred to depend on recommendations from the professionals working in the various fire departments.
- Commissioner Lemel commented that the various fire department budgets must be considered within the context of the entire function of the County which is why staff involvement is crucial.
- Commissioner Lemel would like to work toward pursuing the flat tax over the next year. She did not envision any other way to provide paid firefighters in all districts otherwise.
- Commissioner Chappell inquired further about the difficulties with finding part-time staff and asked if there were issues with being paid by and volunteering at the same facility. Assistant County Manager David McNeill confirmed there are employment laws dealing with this issue and they have to be cognizant of this when volunteering and being employed at the same facility.
- Commissioner Hawkins noted a theme reflected throughout some of the requests is the need for space and expansion and wondered if there was a more comprehensive way to address this need instead of on an individual basis. Mr. McNeill responded that each fire district is unique and different and what works for one district cannot necessarily be applied to another. He said the same is true for personnel; however, he stated there should be a minimum standard for the level of personnel.
- Chairman Chapman was very concerned about the disparity in the various tax rates across the districts which was evident in the types and quality of equipment the departments had. He felt strongly that Commissioners should determine how best to ensure equality across all departments. He did not think it was fair to citizens to levy 23 cents in one district and 5 cents in another. Chairman Chapman said he was comfortable approving additional personnel requests at this time. He also wanted Commissioners to determine how to help North Transylvania.
- Commissioner Lemel pointed out some of the departmental percentage increases (Rosman 19.8%, Little River 2.6%, Connestee 9.6%, Lake Toxaway 29.8%, North Transylvania 46.1%) and inquired with the Manager about options. She struggled with some of the increases, especially North Transylvania. The Manager offered some options for consideration, noting Commissioners must levy a fire tax in order to gain revenue for fire department funding:

- Levy additional general fund tax
- Levy combination of district tax and general fund tax
- Set all fire district taxes to zero and fund all services from the general fund tax

The departments have done their best to justify their budget requests. Once Commissioners decide if the requests are warranted, staff can provide Commissioners with better funding options. The Manager asked Commissioners to concentrate on the budget requests at this point. The funding will be discussed at the next meeting.

- Commissioner Hawkins pointed out that the increase alone being requested by Lake Toxaway is larger than some of the other departments' entire budgets.
- Commissioner Hawkins inquired further about Lake Toxaway's request for a new rescue pumper and equipment to stock it and commented there seems to have been no discussion about whether the purchase would impact the upcoming budget. Mr. McNeill responded when the purchase was approved it was reported to him there would be no impact which is what he revealed to

Commissioners. The understanding is the impact would come the following year. He pointed out the Lake Toxaway Board has developed a plan by which they intend to purchase trucks every five years and remain in good financial shape. They also decided not to finance the equipment to outfit the truck. The truck would be useless without the equipment.

- Chairman Chapman hypothetically posed what would happen if Commissioners decided to freeze fire department budgets this year. Mr. McNeill expressed concern with that approach. Some departments have critical needs. In addition, Rosman is landlocked and they have an opportunity to purchase adjacent property now. The property also contains storage tanks that belong to the fire department and it would be problematic if they were not able to secure the property.
- Commissioner Hawkins commented the purchase of the property requested by Connestee is minor compared to the cost of the entire construction project. He was supportive of purchasing the property and then working toward a construction plan later. Mr. McNeill revealed he has discussed with the department a plan on how to appropriately move forward.
- Commissioner Phillips, referring back to Commissioner Lemel's reference on percentage increases for various departments, said basing budgets on levels of percentage increases might not be the best approach being that some departments were starting with low budget figures.
- Commissioner Chappell suggested since at the last meeting the Board recommended the establishment of a subcommittee to evaluate the fire departments' budgets, there be no increase in paid staffing in FY 19.
- Chairman Chapman was unsure of the purpose of the commercial kitchen in Lake Toxaway and requested it be removed from the request. He preferred funding to be spent on saving lives and structures.
- Chairman Chapman asked how best to deal with North Transylvania's budget shortfalls. The Manager recommended this discussion take place at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Lemel added the discussion at the next meeting should include Balsam Grove and how to ensure their volunteer staff are participating in the pension plan.
- Chairman Chapman expressed concern about land acquisition and expressed a desire to keep costs as flat as possible.
- Commissioner Hawkins felt the land acquisition requests for both Connestee and Rosman made sense strategically, but he was not ready to set aside monies to begin construction of a new main station for Connestee. He was supportive of not moving forward with additional personnel at this time, but stressed that the issue is not going away. He inquired if there were options to consider later. The Manager said Commissioners can earmark funds from fund balance or the general fund, but once the tax rates are set for the year they cannot be changed until the following year. They could also elect to set a tax rate for an amount to put into a reserve that does not go into the departments' budgets for this purpose.

#### **Consensus Action**

- Removal of all new personnel requests for FY 19
- Removal of Lake Toxaway kitchen remodel to commercial kitchen
- Acquisition of property for Rosman to remain in budget
- Acquisition of property for Connestee to remain in budget, but no commitment toward construction at this time
- Include funds for pension plan for Balsam Grove

During the meeting, staff will calculate the new fire tax rates for the fire departments and share with Commissioners at the end of the workshop.

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE TACTICAL RESCUE VEHICLE

- Sheriff's Office budget request received in March and budget review with two Commissioners held in April
- Major requests included:
  - Personnel
    - SRO for Brevard Academy (offset by revenue)-\$54,515
    - Investigator position-\$60,258\*
    - Increase transport officer time-\$5,557
    - Reclassification of Administration Assistant to a Concealed Carry/Records Assistant
  - Capital
    - Tactical Vehicle-\$274,210\*
    - Vehicles (6 replacements, 1 new)-\$410,037
    - Combi Oven for Jail-\$35,210
  - Certification/Education bonus proposal-\$68,752

#### \*Item requested prior

- Total requested for FY 19: \$8,143,253, 7.1% increase (\$540,379)
  - FY 18 Approved Budget: \$7,602,874
  - FY 19 Recommended Budget: \$7,851,582, 3.27% increase (\$248,708)
  - Revenue projections for the Sheriff's Office increasing by \$70,759 due to SRO revenue increase (\$158,838) to a total of \$1,172,595
  - Total County revenue growth at 2.27%
  - Without cost control measures, Commissioners will be forced to raise taxes for operations and capital needs
- Recommended budget changes based on feedback
  - Removed Tactical Vehicle \$274,210
  - Removed on-call and degrees from bonus program because not compensating for this in other departments; Personnel Board will review in the future (\$51,791 remained in the recommended budget which are specific to the Sheriff's Office)

#### *Board Discussion*

The Manager opened the floor for discussion. She pointed out the Board's agenda packet includes the Sheriff's budget request and justifications. It also includes the Sheriff's six-month data review and responses to any questions Commissioners had about the Sheriff's budget during the six-month budget presentation.

This is a summary of the Board's comments and of action taken:

- Commissioner Chappell asked for this item to be placed on the agenda for discussion. He reminded Commissioners of previous statements that budgets are reflective of Commissioners' priorities and said this item is important to him because it involves protecting the lives of those who places themselves in harm's way to protect citizens. He asked the Board to consider the Sheriff's options for paying for the vehicle that involve cost-sharing.
- Commissioner Lemel stated that the overall budget growth is 2.27% and she cannot support a 7.1% increase in one department. However, she said she understands the need for the vehicle and would prefer providing the funds upfront instead of financing if the cost-sharing can be achieved.
- Commissioner Hawkins stated that a cost-share purchase makes more sense than leasing the vehicle, which was an option presented. He pointed out the cost-share option suggested was \$60,000 from the County's FY 19 Budget (reduction of another vehicle in Sheriff's budget), a contribution from City of Brevard of \$60,000 (not yet confirmed), and a County contribution of

\$50,000. The remaining \$100,000 could be paid back to the County over a three-year period through drug seizure monies or other funding sources that the Sheriff has at his disposal, or from the general fund budget. He recommended the vehicle purchase.

- Chairman Chapman expressed concern about the militarization of law enforcement. He would like to know what the costs are for upkeep and maintenance.
- Commissioner Phillips would prefer to see these monies spent on the protection of schools and additional school resource officers.

### **Consensus Action**

- Consensus to purchase the vehicle through cost share, not lease
  - \$60,000 from FY 19 Sheriff's budget by removing another requested vehicle
  - Request \$60,000 from City of Brevard/Brevard Police Department
  - \$50,000 to come from County's Fund Balance
  - \$104,000 remaining – to be paid from discretionary funds by the Sheriff (except those federal funds that cannot be supplanted)
- Cost of vehicle to be paid upfront from fund balance

### **COURTHOUSE TAX IMPACT**

- In November 2017, Commissioners decided to move forward with a new courthouse on Morris Road with a third floor shell for future expansion with a programming cost of \$31 million
- In January 2018, Commissioners authorized staff to pursue USDA loan funding for the project
  - Tax impact for payments on debt service is 2.15 cents, assuming \$31million loan at 3.5% for 40 years with flat annual payments of \$1,451,646 and the value of one cent on the tax being \$674,530
  - Limited Obligation Bonds-option for funding, but only up to 20 years and would result in a tax rate increase of around 4 cents for initial payments (payments not flat) with similar assumptions
- Architect fee set at \$2,236,400 (Contract still under review)
  - Basic architecture services, including data and technology design: \$2,025,000
  - Furniture design and procurement services: \$85,000
  - USDA loan administrative extra duties billed hourly with a not to exceed: \$126,400

### ***Board Discussion***

- Chairman Chapman asked for this item to be brought forth for discussion. He felt this Board had an obligation to fund the Courthouse instead of passing it onto future Boards. This Board approved the project unanimously.
- Commissioner Lemel stated if the Board is going to vote for this project, the Board should be responsible for the tax implications and take responsibility for what they are asking from the community. She said another key piece is repurposing the existing Courthouse, to include planning funds, staff and material expenses, ongoing maintenance issues, etc. For that reason, she asked the Board to consider a 2.5 cents tax increase.
- Commissioner Hawkins agreed with comments thus far. He pointed out that a 2.5 cents tax increase on a home valued at \$175,000 would be an additional \$43 a year in taxes. This essentially pays for the new Courthouse in its entirety, plus plans for repurposing the current facility and any maintenance along the way.
- Commissioner Phillips agreed also. He stated the decision has been made and it was one that was needed. He appreciated Commissioner Lemel's suggestion to add to the tax rate to upkeep the old Courthouse because it has so much potential. He stressed to the public that the Board has no intention to tear down the current facility.



- Commissioner Chappell supported the recommendation as well and said he stands by his decision on the new Courthouse. He stressed that Transylvania County is just one lawsuit and one judge's decision away from paying more than \$31 million until the new facility is built. This has happened in other counties. He also wanted to dispel rumors about the dollar figures involved and said the numbers have not changed.
- Chairman Chapman stated that some have commented there are many people against the Courthouse decision, but he said he has only received one letter and a few emails about it. He pleaded to the public that if they have concerns they need to come to the Board of Commissioners, not complain amongst themselves because it does no good. In fact, he said he has received more positive comments than negative. Chairman Chapman said the Courthouse is a need that has been delayed for many years. If the County does not move forward, it could find itself in a situation similar to other counties where judges demand adequate facilities and courts must be held in other facilities, even across county lines.
- Commissioner Lemel read a recent letter the County received from Resident Superior Court Judge Mark Powell. The letter described a high profile court case in which there was lack of parking, lack of space for the jury and a limited ability to keep the defendant in custody out of site from the jury members, otherwise they could have a mistrial. A lot of work and planning went into moving people through the facility. The noise, court traffic, and other disturbances made for a stressful trial. For these reasons, Judge Powell did not understand why people think a courthouse is necessary for a vibrant downtown and he knew of no evidence that supported such a claim. Judge Powell stated in his letter that court functions should not be part of a vibrant downtown, but away from noise and wanderers. They need adequate parking without worry of a special event occurring in downtown. They want to do their job without maneuvering around all of the unneeded complications and distractions.
- Commissioner Chappell stated he has received several comments from individuals disagreeing with the Board's decision and also several from people that agree with the decision. This Board was elected to make decisions on behalf of the citizens of this community and ones they feel are the best using the information they have. The decisions are not always popular, but he felt this was the right decision.
- Commissioner Phillips noted he has been able to convince people that the Board made the right decision once he shared the facts with them. He said no one wants to spend \$31 million, but that is a fact that cannot be changed. He said he is satisfied with the decision. He also stressed that this Board will continue to share the facts about the project and be transparent.
- Commissioner Hawkins commented that one of the concerns from the downtown business owners is the uneasiness and uncertainty of moving the Courthouse out of downtown. The repurposing of the Courthouse is a long term process. This Board must therefore be conscientious that the repurpose achieves the vision of this Board and is achievable and furthermore it makes the site a dynamic addition to downtown and all of Transylvania County.

### **Consensus Action**

- Levy 2.5 cent tax increase in FY 19 for Courthouse

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POSITION**

- Health Department budget request received in March and budget review in April (Board of Health reviewed and concurred with request)
- Major requests included:
  - Personnel
    - Social Worker/Public Health Nurse II: \$67,861
    - Environmental Health Specialist: \$61,913
    - Reclassification of Health Educator: \$8,661

- Part time Public Health Nurse III transitional training (due to an early retirement): \$24,361
  - Capital
    - Environmental Health Vehicle: \$27,292
    - Software for Environmental Health: \$50,000
    - Data Processing and Laserfiche: \$40,000
- Total requested for FY 19: \$2,717,507, 12.9% increase (\$310,220)
  - FY 18 Approved Budget: \$2,407,287
  - FY 19 Recommended Budget: \$2,619,641, 8.11% increase (\$212,354)
  - Revenue projections for the Health Department decreasing by \$39,791 to a total of \$1,193,542 (local appropriations at 54% with prior years under 50%)
  - Total County revenue growth at 2.27%
- Recommended budget changes based on feedback
  - Removed Environmental Health position and vehicle: \$89,205
    - Annual work plan FY 17 and FY 18 included looking at efficiency measures for Environmental Health. This spring the department completed the LEAN process with recommended \$50,000 in software to help better manage workflow. The software is planned to be developed and implemented in FY 19. The Building and Permitting department went through the same process and it created staff time savings.
  - Removed reclassification of \$8,661

#### *Board Discussion*

- Commissioner Lemel inquired about the timeframe for implementing the LEAN process and software in the Environmental Health department. The Manager's expectation is to move forward as soon as the new fiscal year begins.
- Commissioner Phillips asked for this item to be brought before the Board. He agreed with adding the software for efficiencies, but he did not believe it would replace having personnel in place to handle the demands of the workload. He noted that revenues in this department are exceeding expectations because building is trending upward. The department is at about four weeks out for handling permits which is not satisfactory when compared to other counties. The delay slows down other economic drivers. Environmental Health permits more than wells and septic tanks; they also permit public pools, camps, etc., all of which requires a substantial amount of paperwork to complete. Commissioner Phillips reported that last year 112 permits per employee were approved for well and septic tanks which require numerous site visits prior to approval. He said the department is struggling to be compliant with quarterly restaurant inspections because of the workload. Commissioner Phillips asked Commissioners to reconsider the request for a new position.
- Chairman Chapman pointed out the building industry is booming. He agreed this is an area where there have been issues of delay and compliance and he is supportive of the position. Staff are doing a wonderful job, but they are stretched thin. He said it is important to provide the best service to our citizens.
- Commissioner Lemel supported the position, but she stressed that the software be implemented concurrently.
- When questioned about a vehicle for the position, Commissioners asked staff to locate a temporary vehicle.
- For future budgets, the Manager asked Commissioners to consider a fee structure comparison/evaluation.

**Consensus Action**

- Add Environmental Health position as requested
- No new vehicle
- Move forward with implementation of new software

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS' BUDGETS TAX IMPACT (FUNDING METHODS TO BE DISCUSSED JUNE 12)**

The Manager stated that the updated fire tax rates range from 5.44 to 22.19 cents. She asked Commissioners to discuss at their next meeting how to support the districts to ensure the tax rates do not go above a certain amount. She asked for feedback from Commissioners so she could craft some options.

<b><u>District</u></b>	<b><u>Budget Request</u></b>	<b><u>Dollar Change from FY 18 approved</u></b>	<b><u>Current Fire Tax Rate</u></b>	<b><u>District Fire Funding Method Rate*</u></b>
Brevard/Sylvan Valley II	\$480,000	\$7,000	5.5 cents	5.5 cents
Rosman	\$654,125	\$129,221	11.59 cents	14.28 cents
Little River	\$457,230	\$12,036	9.11 cents	9.06 cents
Conestee	\$782,258	\$75,046	7.67 cents	8.33 cents
Cedar Mountain	\$193,100	-\$900	13.78 cents	13.76 cents
Lake Toxaway	\$1,012,786	\$232,443	4.79 cents	6.17 cents
Balsam Grove	\$97,277	\$0	10.98 cents	10.86 cents
North Trans.	\$291,655	\$134,455	12.70 cents	23.39 cents

**OTHER**

The Manager reminded Commissioners the public hearing will be held on June 12 following by approval of the budget on June 25. She also reminded them that although the public hearing is set for June 12 to meet the statutory requirement, there will be four public comment periods over the next two meetings as well. Commissioner Chappell requested to have time dedicated to public comment on the budget for the June 25 meeting as well. The Manager said she will ensure that the Clerk advertises for the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing. She noted that all of the budget information is posted online for the benefit of the public.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Chairman Chapman reported the NC General Assembly intends to approve a budget this week. It includes a significant increase to lottery proceeds, teacher salaries, etc.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Lemel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously carried.**

ATTEST:

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Larry L. Chapman, Chairman  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board